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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/487,675	01/20/2000	Masaki Hanzawa	7217/60612	3437

7590 12/17/2003

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EXAMINER

ROSENDALE, MATTHEW L

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2612

DATE MAILED: 12/17/2003

#8

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/487,675

Applicant(s)

HANZAWA, MASAKI

Examiner

Matthew L Rosendale

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 17 November 2003.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-12 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-12 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application) since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121 since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments regarding claims 1 – 12 filed 11/17/03 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. The applicant argues that Ejima et al does not disclose a holder mechanism adapted to maintain electrical contact between a memory member loaded in a memory holder and a terminal section when the memory holder is moved from a housing position to a loading/unloading position.

However, Ejima discloses When the holder operating mechanism 31 moves the memory holder from the closed position to the loading/unloading position, the memory holder maintains contact between the memory member and the terminal section 40 so as to make sure images are properly saved on the memory unit before it is removed from the memory holder (Col. 5, Line 56 – Col. 6, Line 53).

In addition, the purpose of invention as disclosed by Ejima is to provide necessary safety measures for ensuring proper recording on a removable memory card. If a memory is removed before recording is complete, image data could be lost or corrupted. Therefore the invention of Ejima provides a memory holder that temporarily maintains contact between the memory member and terminal section during ejection so to not corrupt image data in the event of ejecting the memory from the holder while recording (Col.1, Line 22 – Col. 2, Line 18).

Claim 1 merely discloses maintaining an electrical contact when the memory holder is moved from the closed position and offers no detail to the specifics of that electrical connection. Since Ejima shows an electrical connection between the memory and the terminal section when

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moved from the closed position, Ejima teaches all features set forth in claim 1 and the art rejection is maintained.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

1. Claims 1, 2, 6, 7, and 11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Ejima US Pat No 5,805,219.

Referring to claim 1, Ejima discloses a camera in figure 4 employing a memory member 2 in figure 5 having a solid state storage element as a recording medium where the camera comprises a main body 10 for recording information on the memory member having the solid state storage element. A memory holder 3 is provided on the main body of the camera having a terminal section 40 for connection to a terminal of the memory member where the memory holder is adapted for detachably holding the memory member.

A holder container 11 formed on the outer periphery of the main body unit of the camera is provided for accommodating the memory holder 3 therein along with a holder operating mechanism 31 for causing movement of the memory holder between a loading/unloading position (open) enabling loading/unloading of the memory member and a housing position (closed) for housing the memory holder in the holder container in a manner such as not to permit loading/unloading of the memory member (Col. 2, Line 63 – Col. 3, Line 61).

When the holder operating mechanism 31 moves the memory holder from the closed position to the loading/unloading position, the memory holder maintains contact between the memory member and the terminal section 40 so as to make sure images are properly saved on the memory unit before it is removed from the memory holder (Col. 5, Line 56 – Col. 6, Line 53).

2. Referring to claim 2, Ejima '219 discloses a memory inserting/detachment mechanism comprising a guide plate 5 for inserting and detaching the memory member relative to the memory holder when the holder is moved between the loading/unloading position and the closed position in the holder container located in the recess of the camera body when the relative position of the memory housing is moved by the knob 31.

3. Referring to claim 6, Ejima discloses a holder container in figure 4, formed at a mid portion on the outer surface 10 of the camera body.

4. Referring to claim 7, Ejima discloses a detecting means for detecting whether the memory holder has been moved from within the holder container. A limit switch 19 is disclosed to detect the position of the memory holder. If the memory holder is moved from the closed position to the loading/unloading position, the limit switch is moved from ON to OFF and a save operation is performed to correctly save any captured image information to the memory member before it is removed from the terminal section (Col. 4, Lines 18 – 29, Col. 4, Line 52 – Col. 5, Line 3 and Col. 5, Line 56 – Col. 6, Line 53).

5. Referring to claim 11, Ejima discloses a memory holder 3 having an exterior major surface formed substantially as a continuation to the outer periphery of the main body 10 unit when the memory holder is in the closed position.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

6. Claims 3, 4, 10, and 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ejima US Pat No 5,805,219 in view of Matsuo.

Referring to claim 3, Ejima '219 does not disclose a holder operating mechanism further comprising a lock and lock operating member. However providing a locking means for a memory holder is well known as taught by Matsuo.

Figure 1 of Matsuo discloses a memory holder having a lock operating member 7 being a user operated button. In a first non-depressed position, the memory holder is locked restricting the movement of the memory card. In a second depressed position, the memory holder is unlocked and the user may eject the memory card as desired (Col. 3, Line 64 – Col. 4, Line 8 and Col. 7, Line 55 – Col. 8, Line 65).

Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to provide the lock and lock operating member of Matsuo with the memory holder of Ejima so as to provide a means of securing the memory means in the memory holder to prevent an undesired removal of

the memory member from the memory holder resulting in a missed photo opportunity, improper saving of the image, or physical damage to the memory member from a violent ejection.

7. Referring to claim 4, Ejima discloses a guide plate 5 to forcibly move the memory member in and out of contact of the terminal section of the memory holder when the user operates the knob 31 moving the relative position of the memory holder 3 to the holder container 11. The guide plate 5 is controlled by an arm 6 that moves the guide plate 5 away from the terminal section 40 when the holder 3 is moved to the loading/unloading position.

Ejima does not disclose an ejector mechanism as an alternative to the relative position arm 6 of figure 5. However, providing an eject mechanism for a memory card holder is well known as taught by Matuso.

Figure 1 of Matuso discloses a memory holder having a user controlled eject button 6 located in a cut out portion on the lid of the memory holder located on the side of the main body of the camera. When the lock mechanism 7 is set in the second depressed position rendering the memory card unlocked in the memory holder, the eject knob 6 of Matuso may be operated to eject the memory card 3 from the memory holder (Col. 3, Line 64 – Col. 4, Line 8 and Col. 7, Line 55 – Col. 8, Line 65).

Therefore it would have been obvious to provide an eject button as taught by Matuso with the memory holder of Ejima so that the user may eject the memory card by operating a knob conveniently located on the memory housing causing the memory card to pop out of the holder by a spring loaded action instead of having reach inside the holder to pull out the memory card.

8. Referring to claim 10, Ejima discloses a guide plate 5 in figure 5 to forcibly move the memory member 2 in and out of contact of the terminal section 40 of the memory holder 3. The guide plate 5 is controlled by an arm 6 that moves the guide plate 5 away from the terminal section 40 when the holder is moved to the loading/unloading position by operating the knob 31.

Ejima does not disclose an ejector mechanism as an alternative to the relative position arm 6 of figure 5. However, providing an eject mechanism on a cut out portion of the memory holder for a memory card holder is well known as taught by Matuso.

Figure 1 of Matuso discloses a memory holder having a user controlled eject button 6 located in a cut out portion on the lid of the memory holder located on the side of the main body of the camera. When the lock mechanism 7 is set in the second depressed position rendering the memory card unlocked in the memory holder, the eject knob 6 of Matuso may be operated to eject the memory card 3 from the memory holder (Col. 3, Line 64 – Col. 4, Line 8 and Col. 7, Line 55 – Col. 8, Line 65).

Therefore it would have been obvious to provide an eject button as taught by Matuso with the memory holder of Ejima so that the user may eject the memory card by operating a knob conveniently located on the memory housing causing the memory card to pop out of the holder by a spring loaded action instead of having reach inside the holder to pull out the memory card.

9. Referring to claim 12, Ejima '219 discloses a memory holder having a door on the exterior of the camera body shown in figure 4 but does not disclose a window formed on the memory holder allowing the user to visually verify the presence of a memory member. However a window feature for a memory holder is well known as taught by Matsuo.

Figure 1 of Matsuo shows a camera having a memory holder for receiving a memory member 3. A window 5 is provided on the outer housing of the memory member to allow a user to visually verify the presence of a memory card (Col. 4, Lines 9 – 12).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to provide a window on the memory holder as taught by Matsuo so a user can verify that a memory member is in the holder to ensure that an image can be properly recorded on a media without having to open the memory holder.

10. Claims 5 and 8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ejima US Pat No 5,805,219 in view of Hikishima JP 01245767 A.

Referring to claim 5, Ejima does not disclose that the memory holder container is mounted on the lid of a cartridge holder for holding a recording medium cartridge on the main body of camera. However such a configuration is well known as taught by Hikishima.

Figure 11 of Hikishima discloses a self contained memory unit 14 that detachably connects to the lid of a video cassette holder to provide a means of storing still images on the memory card and moving images on the video cassette.

Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to provide the location of the memory card holder as taught by Hikishima along with the video cassette and cassette holder with the memory holder and camera system of Ejima so as to provide a means of recording moving images on the video cassette tape and still images on the memory card, and to provide a configuration of the cassette and memory holders such that they are located at a central

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point on the main body of the camera so the user does not have to search the surface of the camera to locate various places to insert media.

11. Referring to claim 8, Ejima discloses that the memory housing comprises a rotary mounted lid in figure 4 that is attached to the main body 10 of the camera by a hinge portion on the left side of the holder door to allow the right side to extend outward from the camera body 10 in the loading/unloading position as shown in figure 4, so as to install or remove a memory member 2 (Col. 2, Line 66 – Col. 3, Line 25).

12. Claim 9 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ejima US Pat No 5,805,219 in view of Hikishima JP 01245767 A in further view of Matuso.

Referring to claim 9, Ejima '219 does not disclose a holder operating mechanism further comprising a lock and lock operating member. However proving a locking means for a memory holder is well known as taught by Matsuo.

Figure 1 of Mastuo discloses a memory holder having a lock operating member 7 being a user settable slide switch. In a first position, the memory holder is locked restricting the movement of the memory card. In a second position, the memory holder is unlocked and the user may eject the memory card as desired.

Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to provide the lock and lock operating member of Matuso with the memory holder of Ejima so as to provide a means of securing the memory means in the memory holder to prevent an undesired removal of

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the memory member from the memory holder resulting in a missed photo opportunity, improper saving of the image, or physical damage to the memory member from a violent ejection.

Conclusion

THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.


Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Matthew L Rosendale whose telephone number is (703) 305-4909. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday 8: 00am-4: 00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Wendy Garber can be reached on (703) 305-4929. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9314.

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Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to customer service whose telephone number is (703) 306-0377.

MLR


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